

Is There a Political Dynasty in The Head Village Election with Family Ties Candidates?: A Case Study in Pliken Village Banyumas

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Abstract

The rise of political dynasties in Indonesia has become increasingly public attention since the nomination of President Joko Widodo's son and son-in-law in the regional election in Solo and Medan. The village that has been considered far from the hustle and bustle of national politics also shows a similar phenomenon, namely the emergence of candidates for village head (kepala desa/kades) who are still related to family (pilkades sedarah).¹ But is pilkades sedarah a reflection of the existence of the political dynasty? This paper examines the village head election in Pliken Village, Banyumas Regency, which presents a married couple as village head candidates, using a qualitative approach. The result of the study shows that the emergence of pilkades sedarah is not due to the existence of a political dynasty, but rather for pragmatic and rational reasons. Proposing a wife as a "competitor" is a pragmatic attitude just to get around the rules that prohibit a single candidate in village head election. The absence of other candidates who dared to oppose the incumbent was due to the rationality of the people who saw the high cost of candidacy which was not proportional to the official income of the village head. They also assessed that the prestige of the incumbent village head was high, both in terms of educational qualifications and achievements, so that the opponent's chances of winning the competition were small.

Keywords

blood relation; political dynasty; village head election

INTRODUCTION

Political dynasties are a common phenomenon. This phenomenon occurs all over the world, both in democratic countries and in authoritarian countries. The world knows the Kennedy and Bush clans in America, Trudeau in Canada, and Le Pen in France. In Asia, one knows the Nehru-Gandhi family in India, Aquino in the Philippines, Kim in North Korea, and Lee in Singapore. The phenomenon of political dynasties also oc-

curs in Indonesia. The Soekarno, Suharto, and SBY breeds are a few examples of them. The results of a study by the Nagara Institute stated that as many as 17.22 percent of the 2019-2024 DPR RI members were part of political dynasties. The three largest parties that implement dynastic politics in the national legislature are the Nasdem Party (33.90%), PPP (31.58%), and the Golkar Par-

¹ Pilkades sedarah is a term to describe that village head candidates still have family or blood relations.

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